

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 4-6 and 8-20 are pending in this application. Claims 4 and 7 have previously been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The Examiner's several courtesies extended to the Applicants' representative during the in-person Office Interview scheduled earlier today at 1pm are noted with appreciation. During the interview, the Examiner has agreed that claims 1-2, 4-6 and 8-20, as previously pending, are patentably distinguishable over Flores, U.S. Patent No. 6,073,109 and Reid et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,892,449 for reasons discussed, and that the proposed combination of Flores, U.S. Patent No. 6,073,109 and Reid et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,892,449, fails to adequately address Applicants' claimed invention as defined in each of the independent claims 1, 5, 12 and 17, namely that (1) Flores '109 does **not** disclose the feature "notifying a client computer corresponding to the selected user of the occurrence of abnormality in the related business process so as to prevent the selected user from executing the interdependent business process"; (2) the Official Notice taken "to stop a process from occurring if an error occurs on an interdependent process" is factually inaccurate and is not related with Applicants' claimed notification feature; (3) even assuming *arguendo*, if such a statement taken is factually accurate, the Examiner cannot take Office Notice at exact point at which patentable novelty is argued. [See *Ex parte Cady*, 148 U.S.P.Q. 162 (POBA 1965)]; (4) Reid '449 is not an analogous art, because Reid '449 discloses circuit breaker technology and **not** workflow management system; (5) even if Reid '449 is an analogous art, Reid '449 only discloses displaying an error message on a monitor

(keyboard and display 55) when one of circuit breakers is out of order, and does **not** disclose any "detecting an occurrence of an abnormal status change (user actions such as discontinuance or interruption) in one of the plurality of related business processes [occurred in a client computer to relevant user who is in charge of the related business process]". Therefore, even if Reid '449 is to be incorporated into the workflow process of Flores '109 in the manner suggested, the proposed combination still does not arrive at Applicants' claimed invention.

While claims 1-2, 4-6 and 8-20 are already patentably distinguishable over Flores '109 and Reid '449, Applicants have amended, only for purposes of clarity and brevity and in the interest of expedition, each of independent claims 1, 5, 12 and 17 to further clarify the user who is in charge and the abnormal status change, and the Examiner has agreed to **enter** the proposed amendments to claims 1, 5, 12 and 17, and **withdraw** the finality of the previous Office Action (Paper No. 15) dated on May 5, 2003 as expressly indicated in the Examiner's Interview Summary Record (Paper No. 16) dated on September 5, 2003. Likewise, dependent claims 15 and 20 have been amended to avoid antecedent basis problems. As a result, entry of the foregoing amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116(b) because those amendments simply respond to the issues raised in the final rejection, no new issues are raised, no further search is required, and the foregoing amendments are believed to place all claims in condition for allowance as indicated.

In view of the foregoing amendments, arguments and remarks, all claims 1-2, 4-6 and 8-20 are deemed to be allowable and this application is believed to be in condition to be passed to issue. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' attorney at the Washington DC area

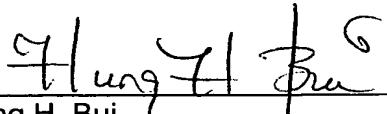
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office at (703) 312-6600.

Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135, and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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